



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES April 19, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Shade Tree Commission was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in the Montgomery Township Building on Stump Road. The members of the Shade Tree Commission in attendance included: Roy Rodriguez, Rich Roller, and Mary Brock. Also present: Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Greg Reiff, Parks Foreman; Valerie Liggett, Boucher & James; and John Antonucci.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by Roy Rodriguez and seconded by Mary Brock, the minutes from the March 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: none

Correspondence:

Foulkeways Earth Day Celebration - The Commission received an invitation from Foulkeways at Gwynedd to their events celebrating Earth Week the end of April. The events included a tree id walk, honeybees and the environment presentation, and learning from arboretums presentation. The members were provided the information to RSVP if they would attend any or all of the events.

Arbor Day Foundation – Montgomery Township received notice that they received the 2016 Tree City USA recognition and the Growth Award for their projects, commitment to tree care, planning, and education in 2016.

Update on Projects: Updates were provided for the following projects:

Land Development – The Commission was updated on the following projects: 1390 Welsh Road / Nappen Associates escrow release inspection; and the Maple Brook Estates start of maintenance inspections.

Shade Tree Projects – no update.

Old Business:

2017 Community Tree Workshop – Mary Brock provided the revised draft agenda for the workshop. The speakers will submit summaries and bios for accreditation (PA Pesticide and ISA). Once the registration form is completed we can offer online registration as well.

2017 Spring Project / Memorial Grove Sundial Area – The Commission reviewed the quote received to install concrete with exposed aggregate stone in the sundial area. Three contractors were contacted for the project; the first did not install exposed aggregate, the second did not respond to the request. Therefore, one quote was obtained in the amount of

\$6,967.50 with the option to add poured colored concrete for an additional \$850.00. The Commission agreed to accept the quote after the warranty / guarantee information was provided and color samples were provided.

Arbor Day 2017 – Arbor Day tree give away is this Saturday, April 29th at the Community Center beginning at 9 am with the reading of the proclamation and presentation of the Tree City USA recognition (20th year) and Growth Award (16th year).

New Business:

Forestry Management / Ash Tree Removal – The Commission discussed the following issues in regards to the ash tree removals within the township:

1. Spring Valley Park – The potentially hazard / high risk trees were marked along the perimeter and trails within the upper section of the Park. 85 trees were marked for removal. The Commission suggested marking the lower section as well to get numbers for the entire park.
2. The formal bid process would be required for this project.
3. Need to develop an Ash Tree Removal Plan to determine township owned lands to evaluate, mark, and remove trees based on degree of risk and percentage of ash trees within the areas. Some additional areas discussed include: Fellowship Park, Colwyn Terrace open space, Ascot Ct open space.
4. Notify residents through website and mailings to adjacent property owners.

The Commission reviewed the quote provided by Curt Eshleman, Timberlink Consulting, for his consulting services for the ash tree removal project. On a motion made by Rich and seconded by Roy, the Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors accept the quote for Timberlink Consulting at a rate of \$75.00 per hour for his forestry consulting services.

Tree Replacement Cost Review – The Commission reviewed a memo drafted by Boucher & James in regards to the increasing costs for replacement trees for land development. Costs have increased significantly in recent years due to shortages of high-demand sizes of plant material as a result of nurseries downsizing during the recent recession. The revised costs (including labor) recommended for the Fee-In-Lieu of replacement trees is as follows:

Shade Trees 3” min. caliper, 14-16’ in height: \$600
Shade Trees 2” min. caliper, 12-14’ in height: \$450
Replacement Shade Trees 2.5” min caliper: \$500
Evergreen Trees 8-10’ min. height: \$550
Ornamental/Flowering Trees 1.25” min. caliper, 8-10’ height: \$400
Deciduous and Evergreen Shrubs: \$90

On a motion made by Roy and seconded by Rich, all in favor, the Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors review revised costs and approve the proposed amendment to the Township Fee Schedule.

Korean War Memorial Update – The budget for the project is scheduled to be approved on April 20, 2017. The project will be presented to the Planning Commission on May 18th and a Groundbreaking Ceremony is scheduled for August 1, 2017 at 10am at the site with a reception following at 11 am at the Community Center.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on May 17th, 2017 at the Montgomery Township Building.